

FREDERICK COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Winchester Hall • 12 East Church Street • Frederick, Maryland 21701

301-600-1413 • FAX: 301-600-2054 • TTY: Use Maryland Relay

www.sustainablefrederickcounty.org

September 21, 2022

Minutes of Meeting

Welcome

Faith Klareich called the meeting to order at 3:02pm and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

Attendance:

Members

<u>X</u> Faith Klareich	<u>X</u> Tiffany Fossett	<u>X</u> Mark Sankey
<u> </u> Jennifer Bird	<u>X</u> Elizabeth Law	<u>X</u> Ben Springer
<u>X</u> John Ferri	<u>X</u> Nathan Pool	<u>X</u> William Steigelmann

Public Officials/Staff Liaisons:

<u>X</u> Dawn Ashbacher, Manager, Climate and Energy, Frederick County Division of Energy and Environment	<u> </u> Kai Hagen, Frederick County Council Liaison
<u>X</u> Shannon Moore, Director, Frederick County Division of Energy and Environment	

Approval of the agenda:

Faith said the Commission will not be going into closed session as the applicant has rescinded his application, and a Sugarloaf Plan update needs to be added to Subcommittee Updates. Bill makes a motion to modify the agenda. John seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes for August 17, 2022, meeting: Tiffany said there was a mistake made under the item of Introduction of Michael Nail that needed to be removed. Betty made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. John seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Division of Energy and Environment (DEE) Update:

1. Shannon updates
 - a. Division newsletter
 - b. Asian American Health Fair
 - c. Green Homes Challenge and Sustainability awards
 - d. Now hiring
 - e. Awaiting stormwater permits
 - f. FEMA funding

- g. Internal Climate Action Plan draft
 - h. Community Climate Action Plan
 - i. Fleet Transition Plan
 - j. EV Readiness Plan
 - k. MD EV Infrastructure Plan
 - l. MWCOG Regional Infrastructure coordination
 - m. Project updates
2. Dawn Updates
- a. MWCOG – countywide greenhouse gas inventory
 - b. Powersaver retrofits
 - c. PACE program
 - d. Fed infrastructure funds
 - e. Fed block grant funds

Betty asked about direction given regarding EV funds; Dawn replied with instructions.

Faith asked about utility bill discrepancies; Shannon replied describing the process; Dawn added more information about automated billing.

Nathan asked about the Statewide EV Plan; Shannon replied with information about the NEVI plan; Dawn also replied with information about the State’s EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan and the ZEVIP initiative.

Legislative Recommendations to the County Executive – Chair

1. Faith presented copy of proposed letter.
2. There was group discussion on the letter regarding solar funding and I-270 lanes portions.
3. Faith requested a motion to change the letter by limiting the suggestion on support for funding for solar projects to Federal and eliminating the “act language”, and focusing on the second part of the transportation recommendation.
 - a. Betty made the motion to simplify the language having to do with the funding as Faith said), and to also simplify language on the last suggestion to focus on mass transit, buses, MARC train, and increasing our initiatives in that area. Nathan seconded the motion.
 - b. Dawn requested the language be clear.
 - c. Faith recommended the language of the letter be changed:
 - i. Accelerate support for community solar projects among local jurisdictions by leveraging State dollars with Federal Inflation Reduction Act funds.
 - ii. Direct the MD Department of Transportation to ~~cease activities related to adding lanes to I-270 and I-495, and to instead~~ investigate installing a

rail-or bus rapid-transit system between Frederick City and the Shady - grove Metro Station.

- d. Betty made a motion to make the changes Faith said. John seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Report to County Executive

1. Faith shared the updates
 - a. Group discussed changes to cover letter
2. Mark made a motion to approve the document allowing for editorial changes. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Outreach for South Frederick Design Project – John Ferri

1. Howard University accelerated Urban Planning Design Master's program student project to review, design, and present on the South Frederick Corridor

Liaison with other relevant County, City, and local teams

1. Faith continued the conversation with the group from last month on the benefits of networking.

Subcommittee Updates

- Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Plan –Mark
 - Update by Mark followed by group discussion on if/how the FCSC should submit comments on the Plan before final decision by the County Council
 - Group reviewed and discussed FCSC comment letter originally written by Mark and approved for comment on the draft Plan over the summer with edits by Mark with updates to make current.
 - Faith requested a motion to have an ad hoc meeting. Bill made a motion to have an ad hoc meeting within the next 2-3 weeks, before scheduled FCSC November meeting. Betty seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- South Frederick Corridor Plan – Faith
 - No updates
- Green Resources Energy Action Team (GREAT) – Bill
 - Bill is putting together information on incentives for microgrids
- Sustainability Awards- Faith
 - Award of sustainable material has been found and wording for awards has been approved
 - Faith spoke with Joe Richardson about Bar-T program submission about school and student participation in the Lunch Out of Landfills program. Faith suggested recognition by inviting program students to FCSC meetings to present what they are doing.

- Faith requested a motion to look to invite students from the program to come present. Betty made a motion that students from the Lunch Out of Landfills program come and present a short discussion of their project and we acknowledge their accomplishment in the near future meeting. Mark seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Faith
 - Nothing to report

Commissioner Interests

- Nathan – County Executive candidate debate
- Bill – Nuclear power – CA concerned about grid sufficiency- CA Governor would like the to run 2 nuclear plants for another 10 years
- Mark – Schedule Sugarloaf meeting early- will tweak FCSC comment letter for distribution
- Betty - Fort Detrick update – Environmental Overlay Map that would show contaminated groundwater - suggested legislation for environmental contamination disclosure requirement when selling property.

Public comment:

No public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.

A recording of this meeting can be found on the Frederick County Sustainability Facebook page.

The council meets the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm.

The next scheduled meeting will be October 19, 2022.